



U.S. Department of Agriculture
Foreign Agricultural Service

Fact Sheet

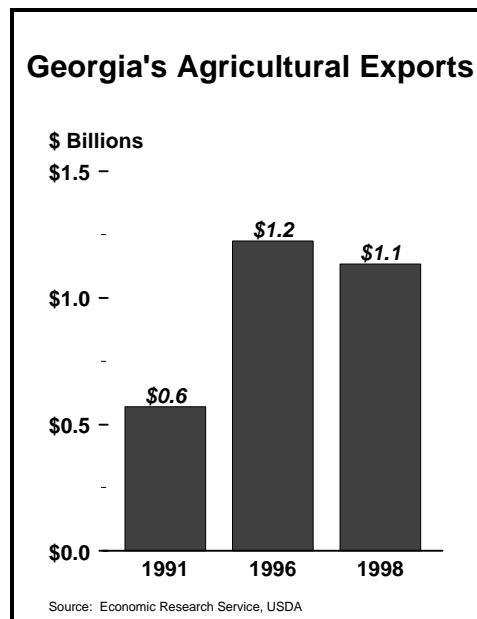
WTO and Agriculture **What's at Stake for Georgia?**

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Georgia is an important producer of agricultural and forestry products and a large exporter. The state's farm cash receipts and forest industry shipments totaled \$5.5 billion in 1998 and \$3.7 billion in 1996, respectively. Georgia ranked 15th among all 50 states in 1998 with agricultural exports estimated at \$1.1 billion. These exports help boost farm prices and income, while supporting about 16,700 jobs both on and off the farm in food processing, storage, and transportation. Exports are increasingly important to Georgia's agricultural and state-wide economy. Measured as exports divided by farm cash receipts, the state's reliance on agricultural exports has risen from 14 percent to 21 percent since 1991.

Georgia's top five agricultural exports in 1998 were:

- # poultry and products -- \$375 million
- # cotton -- \$261 million
- # peanuts and products -- \$90 million
- # tobacco leaf -- \$71 million
- # live animals and meat -- \$42 million



World demand for these products is increasing, but so is competition among suppliers. If Georgia's farmers, ranchers, and food processors are to compete successfully for the export opportunities of the 21st century, they need fair trade and fair access to growing global markets.

Georgia Benefits From Trade Agreements

- # Georgia, a major poultry producer, benefits under the Uruguay Round as South Korea grants unlimited access for frozen chicken at a 20-percent tariff by 2004. Poland opened market access equal to 8.5 percent of domestic consumption (roughly 30,000 tons). The Philippines opened a tariff-rate quota for 14,000 tons of chicken, which will reach 23,500 tons by 2004.
- # Under the Uruguay Round, Hong Kong and Malaysia bound their cotton tariffs at zero.
- # Under the Uruguay Round, major U.S. trading partners are reducing their tariffs by 28 percent on average for wood products.